

Louisiana House of Representatives, a state director for a U.S. Senator, the Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Baton Rouge, a U.S. Navy Captain at the U.S. Pacific Command, and an Executive Vice President for Hawaii Gas. As you can surmise from this impressive background, there isn't any situation or problem Mike can't tackle.

Among the most visible changes in South San Francisco during his tenure are the increase in the construction of housing units and the revitalization of the downtown, both priorities for Mike. More than 4,500 new residential units will be built in the next five years, a significant effort to address the crushing housing shortage in the Bay Area. Press reports indicate that, under his leadership, the city's biotechnology employers are expected to more than double their square footage, from 12 million to 25 million square feet, within the next few years.

Madam Speaker, South San Francisco is a remarkable community, and Mike contributed greatly to its success. He will now take his talents to Riverside, California, where he will also be closer to his children. We wish Mike and his wife, Susan Freeman, our very best for a successful future in their new home. Both will be missed, but fondly remembered, in the years ahead.

LIFE INSEPARABLE FROM ART:
HONORING GRETA CHAPIN MCGILL

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary artist who has mastered the talent and skill of expression. Ms. Greta Chapin McGill translates her emotions and experiences as an African American woman flawlessly to canvas, and all who have had the pleasure to view her work are left in awe of its beauty.

Ms. Chapin McGill grew up in Washington, DC, and associates her time riding the bus around the city with blossoming a feeling of independence within herself that has run parallel during her brave journey as an artist. During this time, Greta's father took her to Constitution Hall, where he asked her to close her eyes, and "see" the music. The ability for art to pull us out of reality, and encapsulate us in harmony with emotion and surrealness, is what surrounded Greta as she "saw" the music herself. Greta's own art is a reflection of this experience, unlocking every emotion and story she can elicit from canvas and color.

Inspired by her father's encouragement that anything is possible if you believe in it, Greta began to fully pursue art. She studied painting and art history at Howard University and The Corcoran School of Fine Art, and her exceptional ability has since taken her across the globe to exhibits in Italy, France, and Switzerland. Greta has allowed her craft to take the

lead in her life, as she believes one's own art is a living, breathing canvas that evolves over time through one's experiences and perspectives gained.

Greta cites feminism as having a profound impact on her work, drawing on women's ability to openly and clearly address their emotions, spirituality, and strength. Her creative process arises from the fundamental understanding and belief that it is the artist's job to tell the story of their time, so she must always be observant on what's going on around her and what is changing. As evidenced in her work, Greta employs color in such powerful and responsive ways that anyone who observes her work is astonished by the "abstractly real" aesthetic prevalent in her pieces.

However, despite such explosive and free works of color and design, Greta still affirms that in her art there remain underlying messages she keeps from the observer. The allure of an artistic piece's mystery adds to the impressive intricacy of Greta's portfolio. She believes there is a deeper meaning behind an artist's ability to maintain the privacy and intimacy of their art. Considering, that as a woman of African Ancestry, Greta's ancestors did not have control of their lives, there is a power she feels as a Black artist able to control her story and how much she discloses through art.

Ms. Chapin McGill is someone who should not only be celebrated for her art, but for her character, determination, and influence. Greta is the embodiment of perseverance. She proclaims that you must have the backbone to change facets of your life when they warrant change, and that things in peoples' lives happen for a reason. She is a firm believer that the universe will hand you what you want if you have the courage to ask for it, and when the universe presents an opportunity, you must say yes.

To Ms. Greta Chapin McGill, the promise to create is a commitment she has given to fully. Greta at her core is still that young girl standing in Constitution Hall who "saw" the music and could not live without art. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to commemorate Greta Chapin McGill's devotion to advancing the arts and depicting the experiences of all Americans through that art.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER TOM
SCHWEDHELM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Schwedhelm of Santa Rosa, California in honor of his retirement and eight years as a council member and mayor.

Mr. Schwedhelm moved to Santa Rosa, California in 1981. He received an Associate degree in the Administration of Justice from

Santa Rosa Junior College's Police Academy, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management from St. Mary's College, and a Master's degree in Organizational Development from Sonoma State University.

In 1983, Mr. Schwedhelm joined the Santa Rosa Police Department beginning a three-decade career as a police officer in Santa Rosa. He also served as an adjunct faculty member for Santa Rosa Junior College from 1985 to 2002. In 2009, Mr. Schwedhelm was named Chief of Police for the City of Santa Rosa and was the first chief to be hired from among the department's ranks in over 70 years. He oversaw the department until his retirement in 2013.

Mr. Schwedhelm's service did not end there. In 2014, Mr. Schwedhelm was elected to the City Council and has now served two terms. He helped lead the city through some of its darkest days. In 2017, the Tubbs Fire destroyed 1,400 homes, most of which were in his neighborhood of Coffey Park, and took at least 22 lives. Mr. Schwedhelm was appointed mayor in 2018. During his tenure, Mr. Schwedhelm worked tirelessly to represent fire survivors and support Santa Rosa's recovery from the Tubbs Fire. In addition, he led his city through massive evacuations caused by the 2019 Kincadee Fire, the first years of the COVID-19 pandemic, social unrest following the murder of George Floyd, and the 2020 Glass Fire which destroyed 334 homes in Santa Rosa and wider Sonoma County.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Schwedhelm for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Santa Rosa. His leadership steered Santa Rosa through numerous crises and accelerated his city's recovery in their wake. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING RANDY WALKER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize Randy Walker, Garden City, Michigan's longest-serving mayor.

Randy Walker held the office of mayor from 2008 until 2022. Prior to that he served a term on city council. Mayor Walker is a lifelong resident of Garden City. He has always been passionate about serving the community that raised him. Over the years, Mayor Walker has given his time to many service-oriented organizations, including the Kiwanis Club. His love for the community runs deep and it shined through in the initiatives he undertook and supported as our public official.

Please join me in thanking Mayor Randy Walker for his 15 years of service to the people of Garden City in Michigan's 13th District Strong. The 13th Congressional District wishes him well in his retirement and thanks him for his partnership and service to our district.